

Societal Context

St Patrick's Catholic School operates in a rapidly changing, complex, global world. Our school RE program seeks to reflect a Catholic Christian worldview that integrates faith, life and culture in this contemporary and multi-faith context. St Patrick's is a place where students and their families encounter the mission and outreach of the church especially through pastoral care and the experience of Catholic Christian community.

St Patrick's Catholic School embraces families from a wide range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Parents enrol their children in our school for a variety of reasons. Often enrolment at our school is from parents seeking the small community environment for their child and while they agree to support the Catholic ethos of the school, the religious aspect of education is not of the highest importance. Many of our families do not fully understand the foundational nature and central importance of the religious and spiritual dimension of Catholic education, however, the parent community are very supportive of our celebrations at school and this is evident through the attendance of parents at our Masses.

St Patrick's Catholic School recognises the SOCIETAL Context by:

- Promoting St Patrick's as an inclusive school, open to all, through our enrolment policy (Appendix 3);
- Reflecting a Catholic Christian world view that integrates different faiths, life and cultures through the teaching of Religion;
- Gathering data on student faith backgrounds and using this information to cater for all of our students in the context of Religious Education (Appendix 4);
- Informing parents of the school Religious Education program
 - o During the enrolment process and orientation days
 - o At parent information evenings at the beginning of each year
 - o Class/Term overviews
 - o Through the weekly school newsletter
 - o Through the school website
- Acknowledgement of Aboriginal culture at the beginning of assemblies

- Immersing students in a global world through the use of Caritas, Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul resources.
- Raising awareness and funds for groups such as: Caritas, St Vincent de Paul, the Annual Catholic Campaign, Catholic Mission, Orange Sky Laundry, Walk For Water and various emergency response funds.
- Offering fee concessions to support families finding it hard to meet financial commitments; and
- Demonstrating an acceptance of the broader Australian culture through acknowledgement of the cultural diversity found within our school.
- Employing and providing opportunity for people with a disability to work in our school environment.

